

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

22 MAR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Argentina

a. Latest indications are that non-Peronist labor leaders have prevailed on the Peronists to call off the general strike which had been laid on for Friday.

b. Military leaders are still not of one mind on Frondizi's future, but a majority now favor leaving him in place in return for a veto over appointment of a new cabinet.

c. The arrival of Prince Philip, scheduled for this afternoon, seems likely to provide some more cooling-off time.

2. France-Algeria

a. Oran was the main trouble spot yesterday, but the OAS terror campaign is still not on a massive scale. French military and security forces, which suffered some casualties in the clash with the OAS in Oran, are holding fast, although they have not faced a really big test yet, and Moslem leaders have been able to restrain their followers.

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3. Syria-Israeli
border

a. Local military moves on both sides continue. Syrian forces in the area remain on full alert and all taxis at hand there have been commandeered for possible transport service. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] There is, however, no solid support for yesterday's charges and countercharges concerning air clashes. [redacted] 50X1

b. Jordanian forces are being augmented where the borders of the 3 countries converge [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

There are also some indications that the Syrians look for Iraq to provide some help if needed.

c. There are, nevertheless, some signs that neither Damascus nor Tel Aviv wants a large-scale confrontation. The Syrians have agreed to permit the UN to establish an observation post in the clash area [redacted] 50X1
[redacted]

Both sides are planning to bring the issue before the Security Council.

4. Berlin access

a. No one was hurt in yesterday's incident in East Germany when East German police fired on and disabled a US Military Liaison vehicle. This may have been more harassment, but it more nearly resembles the March 10 incident involving a British vehicle which was a case of bad judgment on the part of the East Germans.

b. [] Soviet flights in the southern corridor this morning have been completed. 50X1

5. Ydigoras set to take initiative

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With another day behind him, his chances of holding on to the Presidency continue to improve, but the job of restoring political stability promises to be long and difficult.

6. South Vietnam

On Monday and Tuesday nights a joint US-South Vietnamese radar station picked up evidence which could be interpreted as reflecting airdrops in support of Viet Cong forces, [] 50X1

[] A high-priority effort is under way to try to pin down the facts. The South Vietnamese government thinks the evidence is good and has asked us to bring in interceptor aircraft and antiaircraft weapons.

**7. Tshombé-Adoula
talks**

Their third meeting yesterday turned on constitutional questions--the definition of federal vs. provincial rights--and it looks as though it will take many more sessions to produce any kind of substantive progress. Tshombé seems, however, to be leaning 50X1 over backwards to appear conciliatory

back
in Elisabethville extremist elements continue to declare that they want no part of reconciliation.

**8. Foreign students in
Moscow again register
disgruntlement**

Another foreign student--a Ghanaian claiming to speak for 20 of his countrymen--has appeared at our Embassy in Moscow to ask help in relocating to a US institution. The Embassy has reported an average of 10 such visits a month since September. The complaints in this case were very much like those which have come before: poor living conditions, an over-surfeit of propaganda, language problems, and the color line.

NOTES

A. The Dominican Embassy here has recommended that Munoz Marin's support be enlisted in the effort to get early restitution of the Dominican quota of the Cuban sugar windfall. This is also the principal mission of Foreign Minister Bonilla who arrived in Washington Tuesday. [REDACTED]

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B. The Ulbricht regime is cutting its party and government apparatus back by about 10 percent, the aim being to reduce uneconomic overhead and to increase the industrial force. [REDACTED]

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C. Relations between India and Nepal have taken a momentary turn for the better, with both sides working to ease the strains arising from the rebel activities of Nepalese exiles. A visit to New Delhi by King Mahendra sometime next month now seems likely.

D. The Chinese Communists are on the verge of suspending merchant shipping operations in the Canton area because of a shortage of marine fuel. The shortage could also account for the limited activity of the South China naval fleet which has been noted during February and March. [REDACTED]

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--21 March 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

BERLIN: Soviet harassing and probing tactics against Allied access to Berlin will continue, especially in the air corridors. Bloc military activity suggests that the Communists do not intend their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

LAOS: Although the negotiations are stalemated, we do not see indications that the Communists intend to renew major hostilities in the immediate future.

SOUTH VIETNAM: Despite vigorous government military operations, the Viet Cong continue aggressive operations against lines of communications and isolated guard posts. The Soviet statement of 17 March appears to be no more than an intensification of bloc propaganda against United States assistance to South Vietnam.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

II.

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III.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE